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CLAIMS

1. A method of imparting a desired shape to a fabric composite, the method including the step of affixing to a fabric backing material an interlining (or interlining composite) having extensibility in the longitudinal direction wherein the method includes the further step of selectively controlling the longitudinal extensibility across the width of the composite in such a manner as to permit the composite to assume, or be formed into, a desired shape.
2. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the longitudinal extensibility across the width is selectively controlled in such a manner that the extensibility of one edge of the composite is greater than the extensibility of the opposite edge.
3. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the longitudinal extensibility across the width is selectively controlled in such a manner that the extensibility of one or both edge regions of the composite is greater than a central region of the composite.
4. A fabric composite manufactured according to the method of any of the preceding Claims.
5. A collar and/or top collar and/or under collar manufactured from a fabric composite according to Claim 4 when dependent on Claim 3.
6. An interlining having indeterminate longitudinal dimension and a width defined by first and second edges, the interlining having extensibility in the longitudinal dimension, wherein the longitudinal extensibility of the interlining varies from the first edge to the second edge.
7. An interlining according to Claim 6, wherein the interlining has a number of elastic threads running longitudinally and the variation in extensibility is achieved by progressively removing some of the strands.
8. An interlining according to Claim 6, wherein the interlining has a number of elastic threads running longitudinally and the variation in extensibility is achieved by reducing the

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~~elastic deniers progressively across the width.~~

9. ~~An interlining according to Claim 6 wherein the interlining is specifically manufactured to have different densities of longitudinal elastic threads across the width of the strip.~~

10. A fabric composite comprising a fabric backing material having affixed thereto an interlining having indeterminate longitudinal dimension and a width defined by first and second edges, the interlining having extensibility in the longitudinal dimension, wherein the longitudinal extensibility of the interlining varies from the first edge to the second edge.

11. A waistband or waistband facing composed of a composite fabric strip comprising a fabric backing material having affixed thereto an interlining of width defined by first and second edges, the interlining having extensibility in the longitudinal dimension, wherein the longitudinal extensibility of the interlining varies from the first edge to the second edge.

12. A method, composite, waistband, waistband facing or collar and/or collar facing according to any of the preceding Claims wherein the fabric backing material is first subjected to a process in which the fabric is subjected to heat and pressure such that the yarn strands substantially across the width of the fabric are forced closer together, thus imparting a degree of extensibility into the fabric.

13. A method, composite, waistband or waistband facing according to any of the preceding Claims wherein there is provided an interlining composite comprising a first interlining of high extensibility combined with a second interlining of relatively lower extensibility, partially overlapping the first interlining in the relevant region.

14. A method, composite, waistband or waistband facing according Claim 13 wherein the second interlining is an elastic tape or a rigid tape.